

# Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 151 - 10 OCTOBER, 2025



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## Waikino Pirates... shanties, treasure & swords P12

Photos by Mark James



GJ Gardner Half Marathon P2



Waihi Lions 60<sup>th</sup> Charter celebrations P13



Slipper Is signage dispute P9



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# Good times & dancing unicorns at the Half Marathon



**The G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon, 10km and 5km attracted another record number of entries, with close to 2000 runners and walkers enjoying a stunning day on course.**

Twenty year old Casey Thorby (Taupo) set a smoking hot pace on the half marathon course, with a commanding lead on the field well before the Wentworth Valley turn point, and taking first place in a time of 1:08:27. Odette Jennings (Tuakau) was first placed female runner for the second year in a row, smashing 8 minutes off her 2024 time at 1:20:35.

"It's great to see the continued growth in the event overall," says organiser Luke Garea, "and it's especially exciting to see the huge increase in entries for the half marathon distance.

"It's a phenomenal course out to Wentworth Valley, and relatively flat. We want the G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon to have the reputation for being a great course for a PB".

In the half marathon walk Allan Janes (Auckland) placed first in 2:27:06 with Penny Purcell (Tauranga) winning the women's walk, and placing second overall in a time of 2:34:26.

Twelve seconds separated first and second place for the 10km run with James Reid (Auckland) holding on to his 1st place title from last

year with a time of 31:55 over Kaya Corporaal (Christchurch) at 32:07.

Garea is also quick to point out that not everyone is gunning for a place, or a personal best.

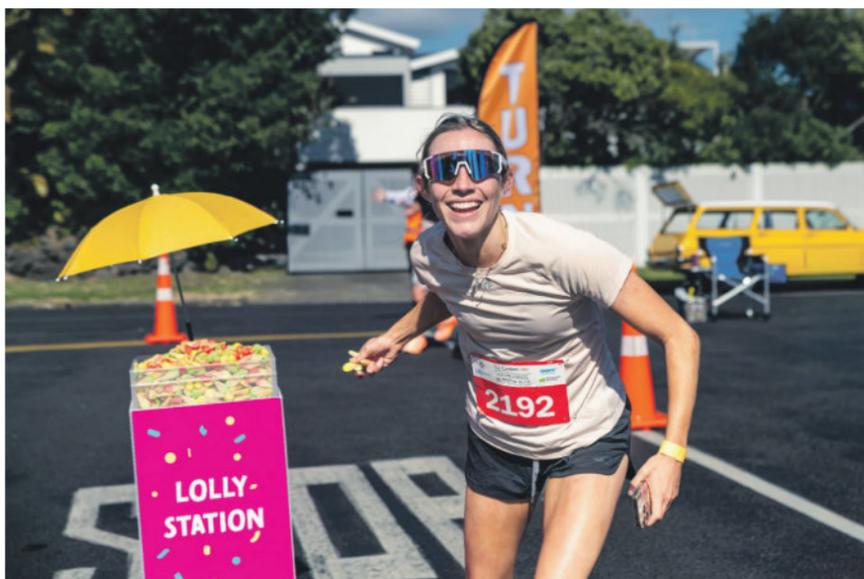
"Over 75% of entrants enter in twos or as a group, with 90% coming from outside of Whangamatā," he shares. "For a lot of people, the event is just one part of a great weekend away in Whangamatā and we do our best to make it memorable for every participant, regardless of when they cross the finish line".

"We're blessed to have a stunning venue on the beach and tremendous support from our sponsors who really get behind the event, plus the community involvement to help marshal on the course.

"Town was pumping over the weekend. The best result would be that creating this special experience for people will translate to more entrants each year, who stay longer and more local businesses will benefit," says Garea.

The 2026 event will be celebrating 30 years of the G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon, 10km and 5km - run or walk. You're invited to the party! Save the date - Saturday 26 September 2026.

**Full results are available at [www.whangamatāhalfmarathon.co.nz](http://www.whangamatāhalfmarathon.co.nz)**



Photos by H.Collie and Chilled Edge Photography (runners on the cover).

## HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel

## Rural Health Roadshow

The Associate Minister of Health Matt Doocey and the Minister of Rural Communities Mark Patterson have recently been in our electorate as part of a nationwide Rural Health Roadshow which reached out to 12 communities across New Zealand.

This community outreach was all about hearing from people and getting more insight into the challenges and opportunities in our health system.

Our region's session was held last week in Thames, and I joined the Associate Health Minister at the public meetings to listen to what people had to say. We also visited Thames Hospital to meet with frontline health workers to get a glimpse of the incredible work that

they do around the clock, every day of the year.

This roadshow is part of a drive to improve access to healthcare in rural communities, like the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains. The Government believes Kiwis should be able to access healthcare regardless of where they live in New Zealand, which is why we have brought in initiatives like 24/7 digital health services, expanded after-hours and urgent care, and green-lit the Waikato Medical School.

There's always more work to do to improve our health system and I want to thank everyone who came along and shared their experience and thoughts on this subject.

# Scott Simpson

## MP for Coromandel

**Contact me anytime**  
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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

## Book blast!

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## Climate worries based on science

Climate change is happening and while I appreciate George Williams's Year 11 General Science lessons, it only tells a fraction of the story. Yes, we need CO2 to grow food, but we are producing so much we are putting the planet in danger. A good analogy would be that yes we need water to survive, but we don't need a flood that wipes out everything.

The facts are clear. Global temperatures are rising, climates in many parts of the world are changing with droughts and extreme weather conditions massively affecting agriculture. If people can't grow food, then they are forced to move and these migrations out of places like Central America then provide talking points for right wing politicians to distract people from talking about climate change.

George asks "why does livestock farming attract so much attention from climate scientists?" Well the answer is clear. According to the Ministry for the Environment nearly half of NZ's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture.

It has nothing to do with being a soft political target, it is simply following the science. Conservative commentators will attempt to obscure the scientific facts with allegations that our farmers are being picked on, but this political trick does not obscure the fact that we need to do something about climate change before it is too late.

**John Lipscombe**  
WHANGAMATĀ

## Courage

It is not often we can compliment our politicians on their political courage.

The announcement of our Government's position on the tragic conflict in the Middle East has demonstrated an ability to think independently by presenting a well reasoned argument to explain their decision. The soft option would have been to take a lazy leap onto the populist bandwagon favoured by other nations with little meaningful effect.

Intransigence on both sides involved in this ongoing crisis will negate any attempt to bring resolution to a deep seated refusal to accept the other side's right to exist.

The extreme actions of both parties to this catastrophe have only reinforced the bitterness that has existed for generations.

The only hope for peaceful settlement will require even handed intervention that seeks out moderate political views on both fronts with the courage required and a genuine desire to reach a lasting solution.

**George Williams**  
WHANGAMATĀ

## Terrible service for elderly customer

I had been a long time customer of ON GAS, who would deliver my gas for my house and water heating within 5 days of my ringing.

They have now been bought out by EL GAS, where things have changed substantially, now it's going to take 10 - 15 days. I have two large 45 kg bottles and I asked them, when they deliver, to please shut off the new bottle allowing me to know when I require a new bottle, that way I always had another on stand-by.

The last delivery, they didn't, shut off one of the two, that I alternate, resulting in my having NO gas as



both ran out at the same time. It's now been 3 weeks since ringing, and still no delivery. I'm using a small bbq bottle on top, which my kind neighbour lifts for me to go on top of the main bottles.

Not only that, when you phone them, it's a 20 to 30 minute wait.

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# Meet the Candidates

Whangamata Ratepayers Association (WRA) recently hosted a Meet the Candidates meeting in the War Memorial Hall, those residents and ratepayers in attendance were able hear the candidates for the various electoral positions, Mayor, Councillor, Community Board and Waikato Regional Council answer a series of preset questions.



Feedback from those attending, regarding the quality of candidate responses to those questions was positive, as they provided a clear indication where individual candidates stood on a wide range of topics and issues. The next three years will be pivotal

for the future direction of council activities that will affect everyone on the peninsula. It is especially important that both resident and non-resident ratepayers participate in the election as they represent a significant number of votes. The importance of voting in the upcoming Local Government

Elections cannot be understated, at the time of preparing this article, only 17% of the approximate 4,500 eligible voters have done so. Voting papers can be hand delivered and dropped into the ballot box in the Thames Coromandel District Council Whangamata Service Centre (Council office) 620 Port Road, Whangamata, up until Saturday 11

October 2025 between 9.00am to 12.00 noon (deadline) TCDC Whangamata Service Centre (Council office) is open Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4.00pm

If you have voted, thank you. if not we encourage you to do so and also encourage your friends and neighbours to do so.

Disclaimer: Whangamata Ratepayers Association does not endorse any particular candidate standing for election in the upcoming Local Govt Election.

WRA remains neutral at all times while facilitating a "Meet the Candidates" public meeting and encouraging the community to vote.

- Peter Priest, Whangamata Ratepayer Association (WRA)

# Mountain biking champion

Cycling NZ Schools National MTB Championships took place over the last week in Nelson with over 600 students participating from all over the country. Whangamata Area School had three students travel down to Nelson to compete in their chosen disciplines in mountain biking. The first event kicked off on Tuesday with the downhill race, weather wasn't on their side with rain and mud making it difficult

conditions to stay upright on the bike. Kobe Mulrennan, aged 12, claimed the second position on the podium for the under 13s downhill event. The next event for Kobe was the enduro race which is made up of 5 timed stages on grade 4 and 5 tracks. Kobe was dominant in this event winning all 5 stages in his age group and getting redemption after a crash in his downhill race run as he claimed the top spot on the podium.



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R. Preston, 2025

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# A fresh new hub for locals, visitors & businesses

Whangamatā has a new name on the block — and it's one you'll want to remember. The town's information centre has been reimagined and relaunched as Discover Whangamatā, a vibrant hub designed to showcase the best of our people, our places, and our stories.

What makes this transformation special isn't just the refreshed look — it's the people behind it. The centre runs thanks to a dedicated crew of volunteers, guided with energy and steady hands by Danielle Durrant and Ryan Thompson. The whole project was the brainchild of Peter and Sue Priest and Ryan Thompson, who saw the need for Whangamatā to have a hub that celebrates the town's spirit and creates connections that go far beyond handing out maps.

Discover Whangamatā is about connection. For visitors, it's a first stop to unlock surf spots, bush trails, foodie gems and boutique shopping. For locals, it's a place to share stories and feel proud of what our community offers. It's not just about pointing people in the right direction — it's about inviting them into the Whangamatā way of life.

### Local businesses: your time to shine

Here's where it gets exciting for local operators. Discover Whangamatā isn't just a visitor's hub — it's also a platform for businesses to get noticed. Listings on the Discover



From front left: Peter Priest, Danielle Durrant, and Ryan Thompson, pictured with some of the volunteers.

Whangamatā website are now open, and the rates are refreshingly affordable.

For just \$25 a year, you can put your business on the map with a basic listing. That means locals and the thousands of visitors rolling into town can find you quickly and easily.

Not ready to invest in your own website? Discover Whangamatā has thought of that too. You can opt for a mini landing page hosted on their site — a simple, low-cost way to build an online presence. It's ideal for BnB owners, side hustlers,

or small businesses who just want to be visible without the stress of managing a website.

### More than marketing

Joining Discover Whangamatā isn't only about promotion — it's about pride. Every listing supports a bigger vision: growing Whangamatā as a place where visitors are inspired and locals are uplifted. It's community-driven, grounded in our love of surf, bush, kai, and boutique finds, and powered by genuine hospitality.

So, if you run a café, a kayak tour, a yoga class, or even rent out the bach downstairs — here's your invitation. Be part of the story.

Discover Whangamatā is more than a hub. It's a welcome mat to the world — rolled out by locals, for locals, and anyone who wants to experience the spirit of our coastal gem.

**Ready to join? Jump in at [discoverwhangamata.nz](http://discoverwhangamata.nz) or email Danielle at [connect@discoverwhangamata.co.nz](mailto:connect@discoverwhangamata.co.nz).**



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## Pauanui turns pink



**On 27 September, Pauanui played host to the third Pauanui Pink Walk, a fun family event raising valuable funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.**

The pink theme started taking shape on Friday as the pink balloon garlands were strung up throughout the village and the vibe continued from there.

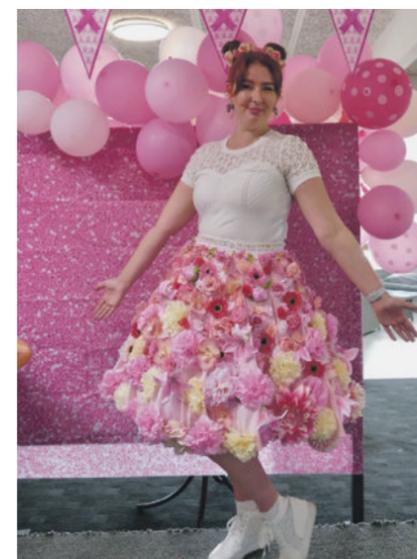
Despite predictions and an extremely mixed bag of weather in the lead up week, the sun came out right on time and 176 participants donned in their finest pink clothing and accessories took to the start line to begin the 5.5km walk.

The event is really becoming a family affair with men, women, children and even the family pooch getting involved. This year saw a team of three generations walking together for the cause.

Participants ended the walk at the Pauanui Club where a cocktail could be enjoyed (pink of course!) while enjoying some community camaraderie and a prize giving consisting of plenty of generously donated spot prizes.

The fun did not end after the prize giving and plenty of pink could still be seen around town while pink drink and food offerings were enjoyed, competitions and raffles were entered and the good vibes continued.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to Breast Cancer



Foundation NZ. The amount raised is yet to be confirmed as the community involvement saw many businesses running their own 'sub fundraising'. The final amount will be advised once everything is collated.

Thank you to all the businesses for your support of the event and of course thank you to all those that participated on the day and were a part of making this a super fun event.

**To keep up to date with developments and keep an eye out for the 2026 date be sure to follow 'Pauanui Pink Walk' on Facebook.**

*– Jodie Hurst, on behalf of organising committee*

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# 16th year for the Golden Oldies rugby fundraiser

Saturday, 11 October, will see the 16th annual Golden Oldies Toe Kickers rugby tournament kick off at the Whangamatā rugby club.

14 Teams with over 300 players and supporters will play a round robin of games from 11am until 3pm enjoying a full day rugby.

At the conclusion of play there will

be a charity auction to raise funds to support youth sport here in Whangamatā, this year there will be a framed signed 2025 Chiefs jersey along with two Blues jerseys!

Over the last 15 years this tournament has raised more than \$60,000 dollars which has been put back into youth sport here in Whangamatā.



Generous support again this year to help raise funds, has come from the following.

Challenge Whangamatā, New World supermarket, Bunnings, Smokey Pallet, Port Road Bakery, Kiwi Team Wear and Whangamatā News, to name a few.

Bob Scott, Whangamatā's famous toe-kicking All Black would be very proud with the teams effort!

**Last call! If there are any budding toe kickers supporter out there who would like to come down and have a run or not you are most welcome to join us on the day. For more info, contact Brookesy: 027 523 9450.**



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# Valley faces threat as Canadian firm seeks drilling access

The iconic Wentworth Valley, long celebrated for its pristine rivers, native forests, and value as a critical water source, is now under threat.



Rua Gold, a Canadian-owned exploration company, has submitted an application to begin sample drilling in the area — a move that has sparked deep concern among residents, environmental groups, and conservation advocates across the Coromandel.

The company's proposal outlines nine drill sites, three water pumping stations, and a helicopter landing pad across a 4,000-hectare section of land just north of the well-used and much-loved Wentworth Valley Waterfall Track. This development sits within one of three key catchments supplying drinking water to the local community. If approved, it would open the door to industrial-scale operations in an area currently known for its ecological integrity, recreational value, and contribution to the region's tourism economy.



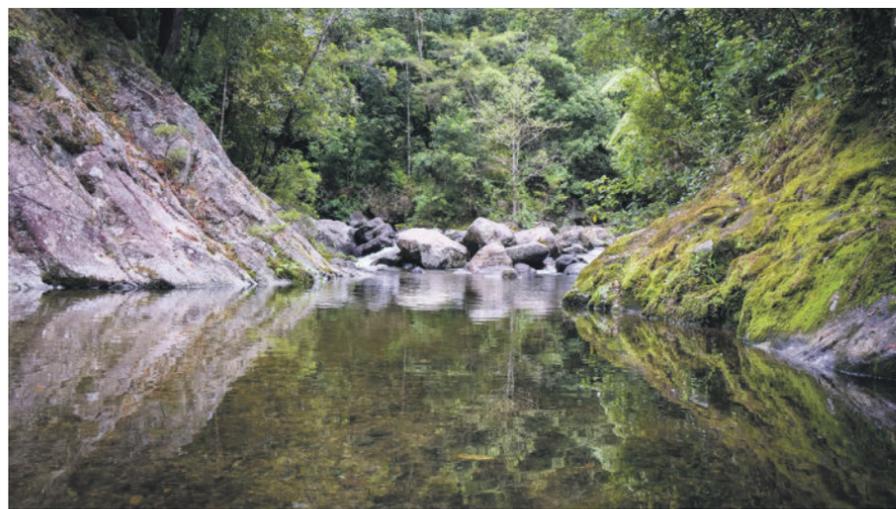
Environmental groups warn that Wentworth may follow the same trajectory as the nearby Parakiwai Valley, where Oceana Gold — another Canadian mining corporation — is currently pushing a major underground mine through the Government's Fast Track Approvals process. That proposal includes a tunnel extending from Waihi to beneath Public Conservation Land in the Parakiwai Valley, threatening a natural hot spring, endangering the critically endangered Archey's frog, and raising significant concerns about land subsidence and forest dewatering.

"The situation unfolding in Parakiwai should serve as a stark warning," said Catherine Delahunty of Coromandel Watchdog. "If we fail to act now, we risk losing Wentworth Valley in much the same way — quietly, bureaucratically, and with minimal public input."

Private landowners near Puriri are also being approached by Rua Gold for access permissions, raising further alarms. Legal experts warn that consenting to such access could result in a permanent notation on property files, with long-term implications for land use and ownership rights.

Opponents of the plan argue that such projects directly undermine the Coromandel's identity and economy, which are firmly rooted in eco-tourism and the preservation of natural landscapes. "Do we want to be known for our beaches, forests, and waterfalls," asked one resident, "or for tunnel vents, helicopter noise, and blasting under conservation land?"

Earthwatch Whangamatā, a local environmental group, is calling for urgent community action.



"This is not just about one permit — it's about the future of the Coromandel," said a spokesperson. "What happens in Wentworth will set a precedent. Once these companies gain a foothold, it becomes significantly harder to push back."

Coromandel Watchdog was invited to comment on Oceana Gold's project and their submission saw

contributions from international experts working pro bono, as well as dozens of local residents who provided powerful testimony to the social impact assessment. Many expressed frustration at being locked out of decision-making processes under the current legislative framework.

**Earthwatch Whangamatā urges residents to stay informed and engaged.** "This is a defining moment for our community," they said. "The time to speak up — and act — is now."

- Earthwatch Whangamata

For more information or to get involved, contact:  
[earthwatchwhangamata@gmail.com](mailto:earthwatchwhangamata@gmail.com)  
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# Poor TCDC Slipper Island signage causing confusion

**Signs posted by TCDC as to public access at Slipper Island are misleading and are short-changing the public as to their rights of access.**

The headline of the sign reads: "Slipper Island is private property with a small public reserve at Home Bay."

Maritime and America's Cup lawyer, Dr Hamish Ross has taken issue with TCDC claiming these signs give a false and misleading impression of limiting public access rights. The island is not private property, but a mix of both public and private property says Dr Ross.

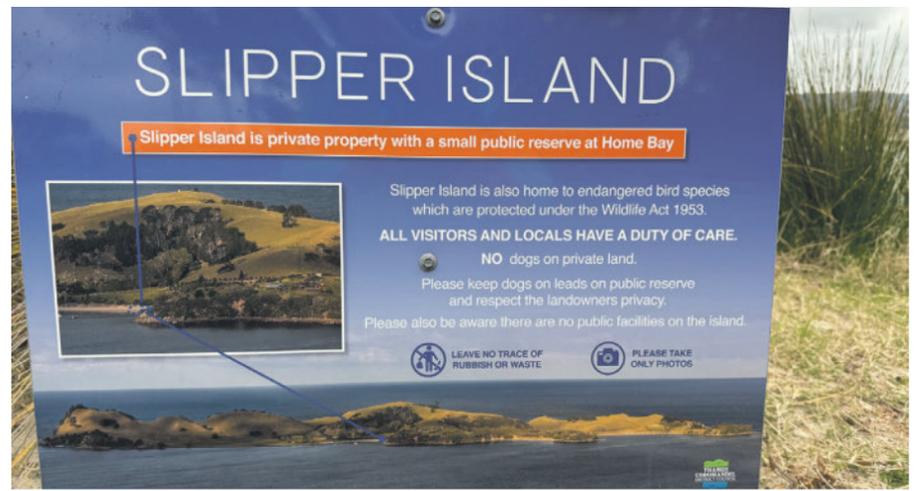
"The public are entitled, as of right, to access all beaches and foreshores up to Mean High Water Springs on the Island. This is broadly speaking, the highest tides (except

for storm events) and is typically shown by the highest line of tidal debris. Additionally, the public are entitled to access foreshore reserves of which there are several on the island, but which are unhelpfully, not signposted."

TCDC have claimed the signage resulted from a meeting of landowners and TCDC staff, but according to Dr Ross, no consideration seems to have been given to lawful rights of public of access to the foreshore and reserves.

"The signs are sloppy work on the part of TCDC with the potential to create avoidable conflict" claims Dr Ross.

"People should not be deterred by these signs from visiting any part of the beaches of this popular island,



but they do need to be aware of the boundaries of their right of access, be good guardians and leave only their footprints. It would be helpful to the public if TCDC corrected

their signs and marked the reserves on the Island to inform the public where they can go beyond foreshore without inadvertently venturing on private land", said Dr Ross.

# Our turn to provide for the sea

**As global fish stocks continue to decline and marine ecosystems face mounting pressure, one New Zealand organisation is making waves in the fight for sustainable seas. Founded by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, is a non-profit dedicated to restoring and protecting marine environment.**



Founded in 2012 by a coalition of concerned fishers, LegaSea has grown into a leading voice advocating for responsible fisheries management. The organisation champions initiatives that prioritise:

1. An abundant and healthy marine environment - rebuild our inshore fish populations to restore ecological biodiversity.
2. Feeding Kiwis first over exports. This can be achieved through low impact commercial fishing and non-commercial fishing.

3. Maintaining access. Natural resources like fish are publicly owned so we want to ensure that Kiwis maintain free access to our fisheries.

"New Zealanders have a deep connection to the ocean - whether through fishing, recreation, or culture," says LegaSea Programme Lead, Sam Woolford.

### A Science-Backed, Community-Driven Approach

Grounded in science and guided by Māori values such as kaitiakitanga - guardianship of the natural world. The organisation partners with scientists, iwi leaders, and coastal communities to advocate for evidence-based reforms in fisheries policy.

One of the key concerns is the current Quota Management System (QMS) prioritises profit over the health of our inshore fisheries and the needs of the community.

Our current system isn't working; however we have an alternative solution, Rescue Fish. This initiative is about giving power back to the people and restoring abundance to our coastal waters.

### Wins for the Ocean

LegaSea has already achieved several milestones. Their efforts contributed to the government's recent review of bottom trawling practices, and their education campaigns have reached thousands of schoolchildren and recreational fishers across Aotearoa.

In March 2023, the group supported a successful community-led rāhui (temporary fishing ban) in Coromandel, and promoted the Coromandel Scallop Restoration Programme, which aims to improve the marine environment and scallop recovery through community initiatives.

### A Call to Action

As climate change, ocean acidification and human activity continue to stress ocean ecosystems, we need action now in order to ensure fish for our kids and grandkids.

The newly formed 'Crafty Fishing Club', run out of Craft Haus here in Whangamatā we are doing our part to support LegaSea and our Oceans by raising awareness and much needed funds. At the recent NZ Sports Fishing Council AGM in Kaikoura the Crafty Fishing Club handed over a cheque for \$1000, money raised by selling local fruit and merchandise. We were represented by NZSFC Delegates Barney O'Neill, Kevin Lynch and Mark James, who presented the cheque to Sam Woolford.

We believe in the motto; 'The sea has always provided for us. It's our turn to provide for the sea.'

- Phil Keogh, LegaSea Liaison

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# Art in Motion

The Whangamata Arts Collective is thrilled to present Art in Motion, a lively afternoon where creativity comes to life.



Local artists will be showcasing fresh new works and they'll be for sale! The Whangamata Club is the perfect place to host this spring event and display our talented artists work, together with tasteful canapés and a complimentary drink

with your entry ticket.

Expect colour, conversation, and a dash of surprise. Come dressed up or wear a quirky hat. It's not just an exhibition - it's a celebration of imagination in full swing. Come along, support local talent, and maybe even find that perfect piece to take home. Because when art is in motion, so are we.

**Limited tickets on sale now at Whangamata Information Centre. Don't miss out!**



Arts Collective Whangamata Present

## ART IN MOTION

Dress as a piece of art, your favourite Artist or create your own unique style. Prizes for best dressed, raffles and magnificent art on sale.

**Date : Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Time : 2pm - 5pm**

**Venue : Whangamata Club Restaurant (Please use Philomel Rd entrance)**

Tickets from Whanga Info Centre  
\$25 includes complimentary drink & canapés



## Sports results

### 500 CARD CLUB

We meet every Wednesday 1-4pm at the RSA. If you would like to play come and join us.

**24 September:** We had 21 players.

Winner & Highest Score:

Ann Jacobs, \$20 voucher

Runner-Up: Bruce Lowrie, \$10 voucher

Average Score: Carol Robson, \$10 voucher

Lowest Score: Janice Allen, bar of chocolate

Raffle winner: Murray Robson, \$25 New World voucher

**1st October:** 31 players.

Winner: Colette Sack, \$20 voucher

Runner-Up: Leticia Murray, \$10 voucher

Average Score: Carol Robson, \$10 voucher

Lowest Score: Snow Harris

Raffle winner: Snow Harris

### MAH JONG

**3 October:** We had 55 players, including a few out of town visitors.

1st: 45 points Sally Hitchcock

2nd: 41 points Christina Sadler

3rd: 40 points Jacqui Gray

The lucky number today was 4 and was not struck.

### TABLE TENNIS

**2 October:** Played at the Whangamata Club our results were Murray Lambert was 1st with 10 points, Albie Driver was 2nd with 9 points and Wayne Broome was 3rd with 8 points. Lots of fun, well done everyone.

# Artful Insights

Creativity is alive and well in Whangamatā, and the Arts Collective has been buzzing with energy. Back in July, Dr Anne Bradley's writing workshop was such a hit it sold out—and the good news is, she's coming back!

On Saturday 22 November she'll repeat the original session for those who missed out, and on Sunday 23 November she'll host Part Two especially for her July crew. Two days, two chances to get those words flowing. Tickets will be available at the Info Centre. Be quick

But it's not all pens and paper—October brings us something a little more playful. Mark your diary for Art in Motion, happening Sunday 19 October, 2-5 pm at the Whangamatā Club Restaurant.

This is your chance to step out as your favourite artwork, an artist you admire, or just your wonderfully unique self. Expect fresh new art for sale, spot prizes, and awards for the best dressed. A splash of fun, a dash of creativity—what's not to love? Tickets are available at the Information Centre for \$25.



And while we're enjoying all this, there's already a buzz building for the 2026 Harcourts Art and Writing Challenge. Full details are up on the Arts Collective website. Feeling a little stuck for ideas? Come along to our friendly get-together at Cornerstone on 1 November 10-12.30. It's the perfect space to share thoughts, bounce around inspiration, and maybe spark your next big project.

So gather your pens, your paint, or your best outfit—it's all happening here in Whangamatā. See you there!

# Rescue Helicopter Trust flies into new territory

In a bold move to increase its funding base, the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust has launched a major new initiative and is now seeking community backing.



In conjunction with New Zealand Rescue, the Trust has ventured into a lottery as it looks to grow the resources to support delivering rescue helicopter services.

Trust chairman, Whitianga's John Stephenson, describes the decision to partner with NZ Rescue as a bold shift in a move to secure funding for the trust.

The two-tier lottery is being marketed nationally and provides a range of first-class prizes including a New Age Road Owl Caravan paired with a Land Rover Defender, and the opportunity to own a JB Motorhome 7.8 Queen.

John said under the two-tier approach two lotteries were running with only 6000 tickets available for the JB Motorhome, and 10,000 tickets for the New Age Road Owl Caravan and Land Rover Defender option. He said tickets sell from \$100.00.

"All ticket sales go towards supporting the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust which ensures that the life-saving emergency services remain available to people both living and visiting our wider region.

"Our trustees were excited when presented with this option and we appreciate being able to partner with NZ Rescue," said John. "We receive wonderful support from

many organisations, individuals and groups through fund-raising events, donations and grants - all being highly appreciated.

"Our latest venture enables people to support the trust and the work it undertakes with the chance of winning superb prizes."

John said when considering the prize packages, the trustees felt something that aligned with our region in being such an attractive holiday destination was appropriate.

While the trust does not operate its own helicopters it does have a hanger and base at the Whitianga Airfield. Helicopters service the region from Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty.

"At the summer peak we can have over 400,000 people around our region and at this time the requirement of rescue helicopter service can quadruple," said John.

"We are a region very reliant on our rescue helicopters; we encourage people to support the lottery so we can continue to return the support when it is most needed."

To purchase tickets simply use the on-line link [crhtlottery.org.nz](http://crhtlottery.org.nz)

- Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust



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📅 Briefing Fri 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

🏆 Prize Giving Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

📍 Whangamata Ocean Sports Club

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# Waihi NEWS

## Pirates at the Kino – arrr!



Winner of Best Dressed Pirate, Russell Clarke, took home the Whangamatā & Waihi News \$100 restaurant voucher.

What a fantastic night Whangamatā & Waihi News had at the Waikino Hotel on 19 September.

There were buccaneers, and eye patches, treasure scrolls, booty hunt and everything but 'walk the plank'.

What a great turnout, and all the locals dressed with so much planning, the whole pub had the vibe of dripping treasure, pirate ship, doubloons and of course a lot of 'Pirate speak', and as the night went on some more "Drink up, me hearties. Yo ho!"

The inspiration for the evening from Bar and Events Manager Mags Morris and her vision, and with the help of Temu brought about just what she wanted.

Mags told us "The one thing I was sure of is that we don't want to walk the same path as other pubs with Trivia nights, Karaoke, etc. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with entertainment like this (we actually have quiz nights monthly,



Wayne, Mags & Cam 'Buccaneer spirit'.

live music, etc) but we needed something more, something very special."

When asked about the themed music she said "I hired an amazing multi-instrumentalist from Brazil, Camila Lenhart to play her incredible music-she is always so keen to dress up or do the themed sets and she made the night so much more special!"

Of course Mags was the shining mermaid amongst the rest of us landlubbers. Mags says "I am a big dreamer and I have already envisioned having a Pirate Parade marching from Owharoa Falls all the way to the Pub."

Congrats to staff, patrons and Hotel Owners Wayne and Cam for making it memorable. Loads more activities this October - don't miss out on the Halloween Dress-Up Party 31 October, 6pm, bring you ghoul-friends!

- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James



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# Waihi NEWS

## Shining a beacon of service, leadership & fellowship

**Waihi Lions celebrated the 60th Charter Anniversary on Tuesday 23rd September at the Waihi RSA, 'People of Heart, service and action'.**

Six incredible decades of service in Waihi, we were delighted to be invited to this incredible milestone and so thankful to the pioneers of Waihi Lions.

Welcomed by Waihi Lions President Duncan Smeatons, who

thanked present and past District Governors, members, and other club representations.

Duncan raised a toast "As you know, we are members of a global community, Lions International, the world's largest service organisation".

A full house and so many fantastic and crazy costumes from eras gone by. Followed by a most wonderful meal, and oh

the incredible 60th cupcakes, splendiferous on golds and blues. Every table was decorated masterfully and the vibe was so welcoming.

Waihi recognises our current members who carry the torch with energy, passion and vision.

Your community thanks you.

- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James, Whangamatā & Waihi News



Waihi Lions President Duncan Smeatons.



Liz Lye, Lions Event & Social Manager and her incredible 60th cupcakes.



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## Waihi NEWS

### Waihi Police Report



Waihi Police are seeing a concerning rise in burglaries and vehicle thefts across our town. From break-ins at local businesses to empty homes being entered and used for shelter, these incidents are affecting many parts of our community. We're also seeing an increase in stolen vehicles, often taken from driveways or public areas.

We're asking everyone to keep an eye out—check on your neighbours, secure your properties, and report anything unusual. Together, we can



help prevent further incidents and keep Waihi safe. Police are stepping up patrols and investigations, but community awareness is key.

If you see something, say something. Let's look out for each other.

- Rachel Gillingham, Community Constable, Waihi / Waikato East

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## On the road again

### It's roading construction season

Please take extra care around road workers and work sites and stick to the posted temporary speed limits to allow seals to settle well. Reducing your speed also helps reduce the movement of loose chips while they embed into the new seal.

Scan the QR code to view the map of local roads receiving some TLC this construction season along with two big projects for Waitāwheta Rd and Trig Rd North.



## Local Elections 2025

You've still got time to **enrol to vote** but be quick – enrolment closes on Friday 10 October. Enrol online at <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>

If you enrol now or you haven't received your voting papers in the mail, you will need to **cast a special vote**. Special votes are accepted at our Paeroa, Ngātea or Waihi Service Centres. You'll need one form of photo ID and proof of residence, like a rates or power bill.

Voting day closes at 12 noon on Saturday 11 October

Our three service centres will be open on Saturday 11 October from 8am to 12 noon. The doors will close on the dot of 12 noon, so set your alarm and get in early! No late votes can be accepted.

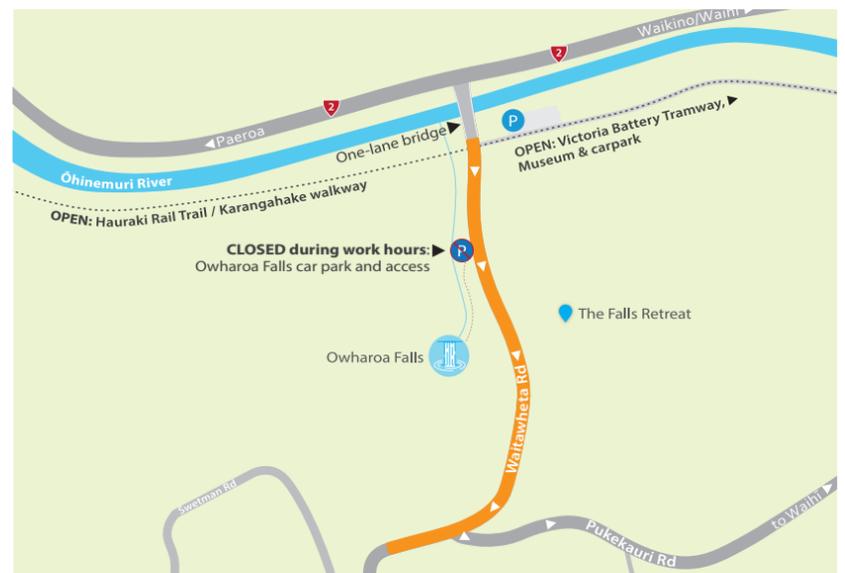
Let's beat the 2022 results!

Check out what's come in for the total number of votes returned for each Ward so far. Will your Ward take out the win for most engaged? Get those voting packs in and let's beat the 2022 results! Check out the stats each day at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/elections/voting-returns>

## Waitāwheta Road Upgrade

Work involves improving a 500-metre section of Waitāwheta Road, running from just before the SH2 one-way bridge through to just past Pukekauri Road.

View project page for detours and work hours: [letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/waitawheta-road-upgrade](http://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/waitawheta-road-upgrade)



## Trig Road North

Two aspects to Trig Road North Project

- Replacement of a large culvert about 265m from the Trig Road North/Waihi Beach Road intersection
- Upgrade of 1.5km of road, (between property # 45 to just before property #186) including widening the road from 4.8m to 6m for a more reliable route. Works will involve stop/go traffic management and some full closures.

View project page for details: [letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/trig-road-north-upgrade](http://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/trig-road-north-upgrade)

## Curious about what's been achieved in the last three years

Check out this presentation from our Group Manager Service Delivery!

From dogs to water infrastructure and everything in-between, the last triennial's been one of our busiest yet.

Scan the QR code to view the presentation



## Pedestrian crossing for Kenny Street, Waihi

The exact location is still to be determined, but the good news is that funding has been approved to install a pedestrian crossing on Kenny Street, near the Rugby Club.

With the hugely popular Pumptrack; rugby games and upgraded Morgan Park, safety of pedestrians is top of the agenda.



# OCTOBER at WAIKINO HOTEL

## Language Exchange meeting

Come & join the conversation,  
in whatever language you feel like...

Thursday 16th October start 4.30pm



**18+**

# COMEDY QUIZ NIGHT

Free entry

18th October 6pm

# HALLOWEEN

Dress up Party at Waikino Hotel

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31st October 6pm

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# Waihi NEWS

## Waihi Match Play congratulations

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Waihi Golf Club 2025 Match Play competitions. All seven divisions were recently completed in this earliest format of golf competition.

Match play is a form of play where a player plays directly against an opponent in a head-to-head match. You win a hole by completing it in the fewest number of strokes.

The hole is halved if players have the same number of strokes. You win a match when you are winning by more holes than remain to be played.

**Ladies:** Silver Carol Leary, Bronze 1 Denise Donald, Bronze 2 Sally Grindlay. **Men:** Senior Daryll Denyer, Intermediate Paul Williams, Junior A Russell Dewey, Junior B John Drent.

A quick check of the Waihi Golf history shows GR Cullen with a total of 12 Senior Men titles and CE Hollis with a total of 10 Senior Men titles. These were completed on the original Hollis Bush Golf Course, pre 1952.

- Don MacKay,  
Waihi News Sports Reporter



Paul Williams, Intermediate Mens.



Daryll Denyer Senior Mens.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Ngaati Waihiinui Marae - Waihi Community Marae AGM

Date: Sunday 2nd November 2025

Time: 10.30 am

Where: Waihi Community Marae, Corners of Consol & Victoria Streets

## Whangamata Croquet Club

Invites you to join the beginner coaching sessions.

Starting Tuesday 28 October at 2pm and lessons run each week for 4 weeks covering different skills of the game.

You will find the club on Bond Street, next to the Tennis Club.

Lessons will be with a registered Croquet NZ Coach and mallet and balls provided. The course of 4 lessons is \$20 in total - and if you decide to join us this will be deducted from the annual subs.

If you want to find out more, email [whangamatacroquet@gmail.com](mailto:whangamatacroquet@gmail.com) or call Roger Buchanan on 021 132 2220.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Whangamata Rugby & Sports Club will be:

When: Sunday 12 October 2025, 1pm

Where: Whangamata Rugby & Sports Club, Aickin Road, Whangamata

All members and interested individuals are welcome to attend. Only fully paid members are entitled to vote at the AGM.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Approval of 2024 AGM minutes
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements for year ended 30 September 2025
5. Election of Officers & Committee Members
6. Appointment of Auditor/Reviewer
7. Proposed Constitution changes or other motions (if any)
8. General Business
9. Closing of Meeting

Please be advised that any General Business items must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

For any inquiries regarding the AGM, please contact Pete Gilbert at [whangamatarugby@gmail.com](mailto:whangamatarugby@gmail.com)

# BAYLEYS

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696 sqm 3 2 1

### Auction (unless sold prior)

11am, Thursday 6th November 2025  
Bayleys, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View By appointment

Dale Sholson 021 636 519

[dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz)

Gordon McGregor 021 998 810

[gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz)

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4.44 ha  6  5  3 

**Auction (unless sold prior)**  
11am, Thu 6th November 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** Open Home — Sun 10:00 am -10:45am  
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or private viewing by appointment

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**Gordon McGregor** 021 998 810  
gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz

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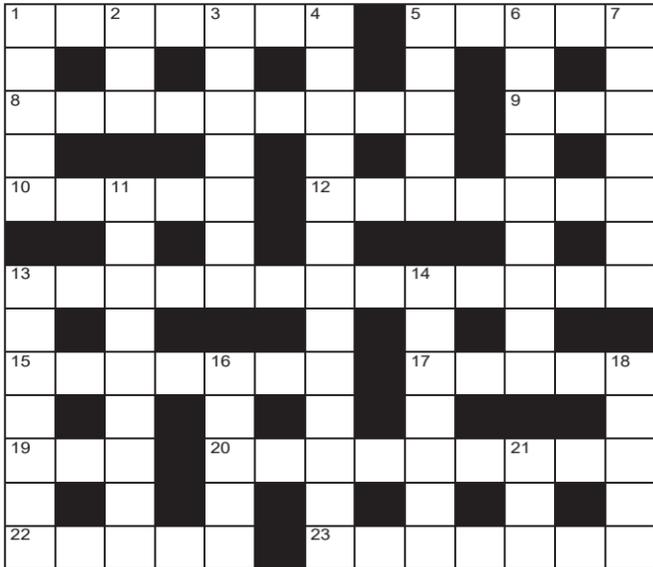
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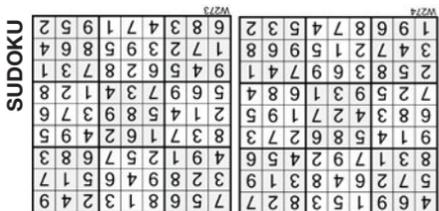
**QUICK CROSSWORD**



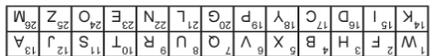
- Across**  
 1. Blunder (4,3)  
 5. Roll with hard crust (5)  
 8. Tease (9)  
 9. Possess (3)  
 10. Hire (5)  
 12. Tiredness (7)  
 13. Self-examination (13)  
 15. Help develop or grow (7)  
 17. Mention (5)  
 19. Large snake (3)  
 20. Subsequent (9)  
 22. Upright (5)  
 23. Drunk (colloq) (3-4)
- Down**  
 1. Deadly (5)  
 2. Vase (3)  
 3. Drug with no effect (7)  
 4. Refusal to show emotion (5,5,3)  
 5. Complain (colloq) (5)  
 6. Exclamation of surprise (4,5)  
 7. Light (7)  
 11. Take it in turns (9)  
 13. Dishonourable (7)  
 14. Rust (7)  
 16. Not suitable (5)  
 18. Inflexible (5)  
 21. Frozen (3)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

**SOLUTIONS**



**DECODER**



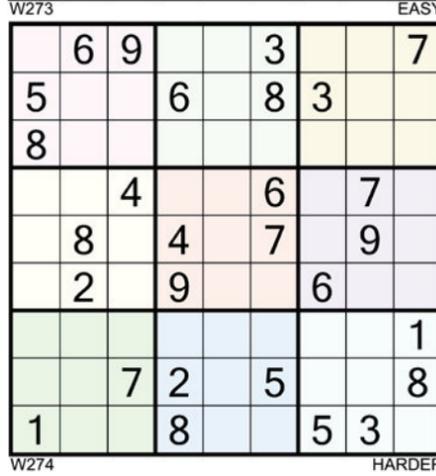
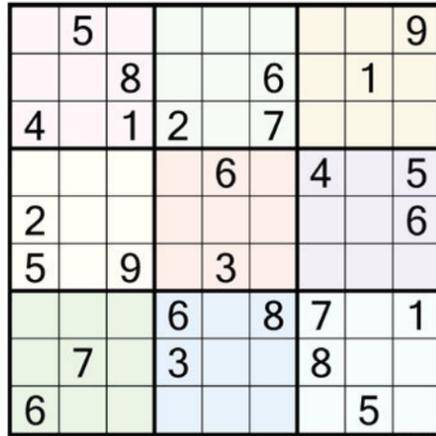
- CRYPTIC**  
 21. Dud.  
 15. Crack up, 16. Balance, 18. Inset, 20. Beret.  
 6. Addenda, 7. Era, 8. Flashlights, 13. Royal blue.  
**Down:** 2. Argon, 3. Courier, 5. Comma, 24. Kettle.  
 19. Libel, 21. Dykes, 22. Tendril, 23. Depots.  
 12. Scanner, 14. Record library, 17. Thawing.  
 10ac & 1dn. Made a bolt for it, 11. Fungi.  
**Across:** 1. Branch, 4. Ice age, 9. Leg-pull,

**CROSSWORD**

21. icy.  
 16. Unfit, 18. Rigid.  
 14. Corrode.  
 13. Ignoble.  
 11. Alternate.  
 grief, 7. Lantern.  
 5. Beat, 6. Good.  
 4. Stiff upper lip.  
 2. Um, 3. Placido.  
**Down:** 1. Fatal, eyed.  
 22. Erect, 23. Pie-following.  
 17. Refer, 19. Boa.  
 15. Nurture.  
 13. Introspection.  
 12. Fatigue.  
 10. Lease.  
 8. Tantalise, 9. Own.  
 pas, 5. Bagel.  
**Across:** 1. Faux

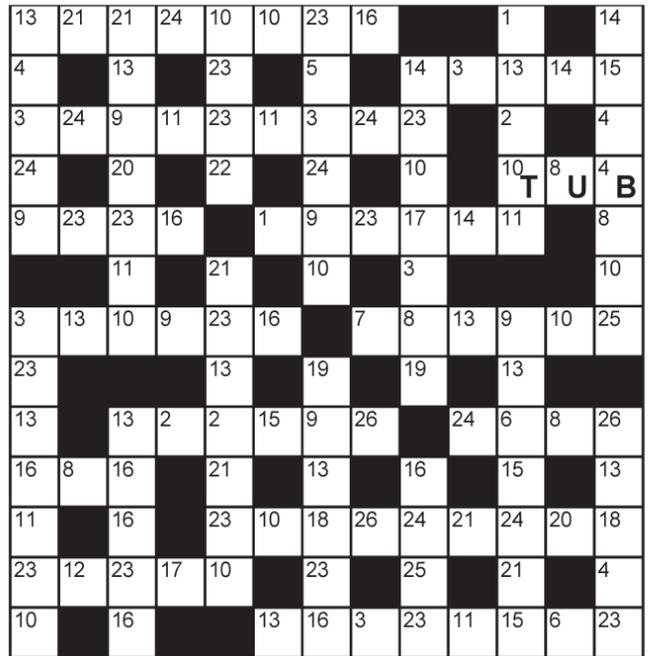
Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

**SUDOKU**



**DECODER**

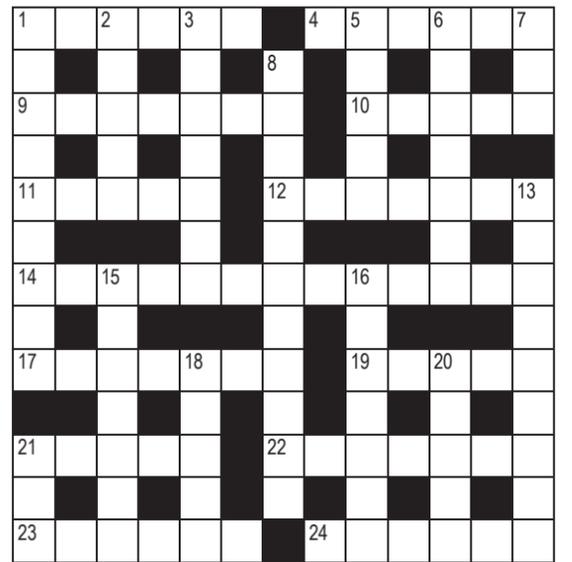
Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
			B					U		T															
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

- Across**  
 1. A limb made from part of a chain (6)  
 4. Very cold period, being kept in a cage, that is (3,3)  
 9. Lull Peg into being duped (3-4)  
**10ac & 1dn.** Took off to manufacture a fastener (4,1,4,3,2)  
 11. Fumigate for mould by removing mat (5)  
 12. It's a pick me up on the face of it (7)  
 14. Sport database kept near the stereo? (9,7)  
 17. Watching Samantha win game inside causes meltdown ... (7)  
 19. ... maybe I'll be blamed (5)  
 21. Water closets? (5)
- Down**  
 1. See 10 Across  
 2. A gas organ (5)  
 3. A mobile take-away? (7)  
 5. Creates a temporary break from reading (5)  
 6. They were included at the back of works ... (7)  
 7. Dared, back in time (3)  
 8. Torch with the stylish matches (11)  
 13. The colour of the queen who makes a faux pas? (5,4)  
 15. Laugh your head off at the cup rack? (5,2)
- 22.** No beans for the dinner tables but they usually have this (7)  
**23.** Where dey keep de pans?... (6)  
**24.** ... and this for Polly (6)



16. The remaining scales (7)  
 18. A small map of the trainsets (5)  
 20. The hat I took from Bertie ... (5)  
 21. ... because he's a bit of a flop (3)

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